

Chicago **BEAR REPORT**

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED
EXCLUSIVELY TO THE
CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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NOT A TOTAL LOSS

*Eagles
Dump
Bears*

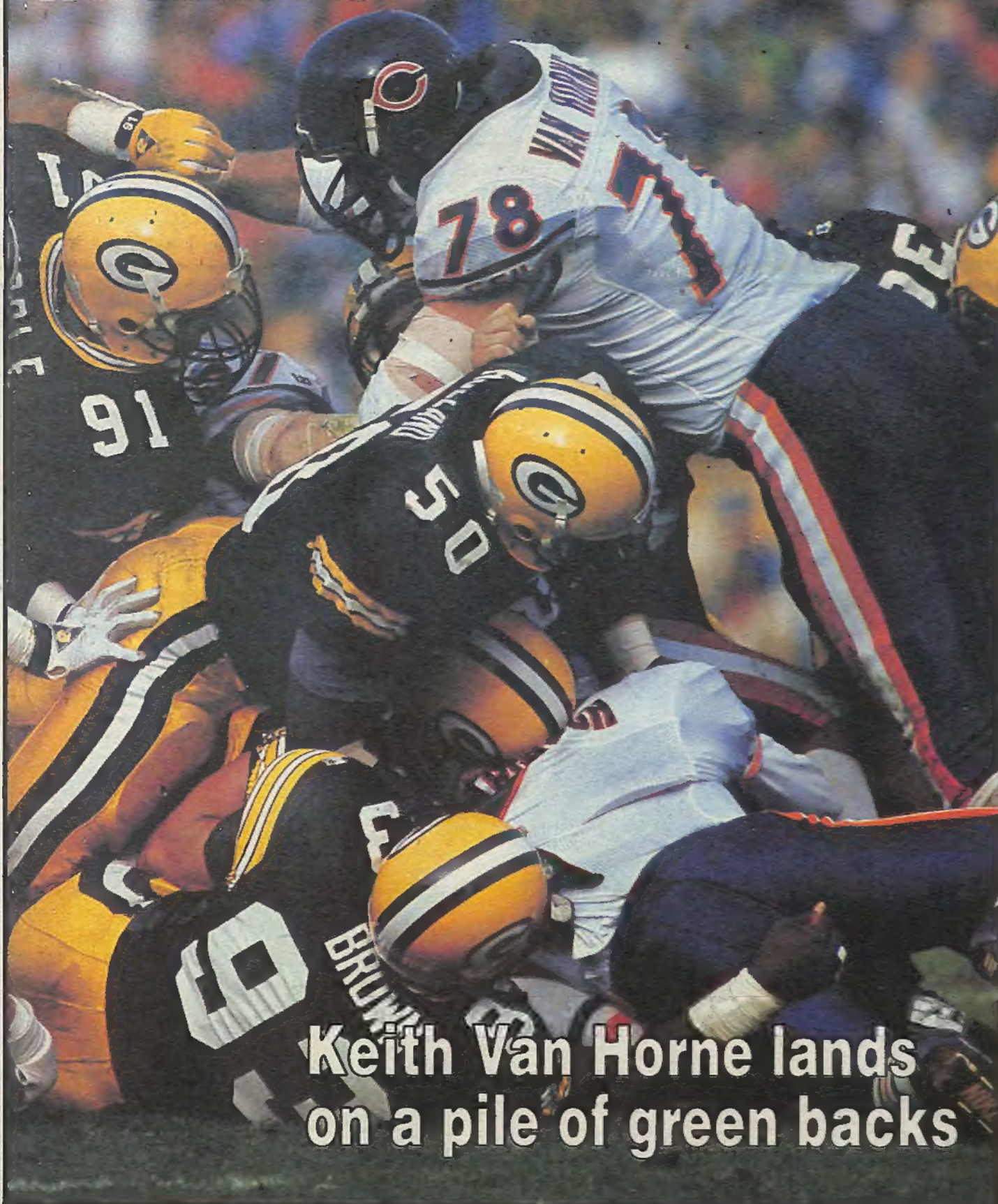
**Anderson set
for debut**

*Thomas may be
on the way
out of town*

**Butler boots
away stress**



IN THE FOLD...



**Keith Van Horne lands
on a pile of green backs**



Walter's back

Walter Payton's Hall of Fame induction last week brought back a ton of memories, and many of those have little to do with running the football.



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DRAW PLAY

BEARS LOOK GOOD IN PRE-SEASON DEBUT



...BUT THE EAGLES LOOK BETTER

...AS COACH WANNSTEDT UNVEILS AWESOME "ZERO TD" OFFENSE!

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VAN HORNE 'RESCUES' BEARS

Veteran will solidify team's shaky right tackle position

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.—Weathering a brief contract holdout back in Chicago while his teammates were huddled here going through drills, Keith Van Horne must have felt the frustration of being trapped on a desert island.

Only in this case it was Van Horne who ultimately arrived to rescue the Bears, not the other way around. The 13-year veteran right tackle signed a one-year contract with a \$900,000 base salary and a \$150,000 signing bonus. He'll earn another \$50,000 if he plays in at least 70 percent of the Bears' offensive plays this season.

Van Horne's presence will solidify a

"Keith's a smart guy and he's willing to spend the time to get the job done."

position that was as shaky as a rickety old bridge. Before he arrived in Platteville Tuesday night the Bears had converted defensive lineman James "Big Cat" Williams penciled in as the starter. Williams has ability, but it will take him more time to learn the new position. Stan Thomas was demoted behind Williams.

"I'm real happy," Van Horne said upon arriving. "Everything worked out real well."

LARRY MAYER



It's time for me to play catch-up with everybody now."

Van Horne would have liked a two-year deal, but the \$150,000 signing bonus was appealing enough for him to drop the idea. Originally, Van Horne was scheduled to get \$50,000 up front with \$150,000 in incentives. Those figures were switched, and Van Horne signed.

Van Horne was winded after his first workout Tuesday morning and said that he had to ask Williams and others to refresh his memory on certain plays.

"I've got a lot of work to do," Van Horne said. "I'm rusty. It'll come. It's just a matter of doing it with repetition. I'll feel more comfortable as time goes on."

During his holdout, Van Horne had been working out at the Berto Center in Deerfield, Ill. with Chicago Bulls strength coach Al Vermeil. He had strained a hamstring muscle and was rehabbing it by running in the pool there. Van Horne also had surgery on his Achilles tendon during the off-season.

"He looked okay," coach Dave Wannstedt said after Van Horne's first workout. "We did a full speed inside drill and he came off and got after people. I was encouraged by his drill work. But I think he'll adjust to the running game a lot easier. In talking to Mark Bortz, he said the biggest adjustment came in the passing game."

"Keith's a smart guy and he's willing to spend the time to get the job done. I don't anticipate any problems."



The signing of Keith Van Horne solidifies the shaky right tackle position. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)

Though it's an entirely new offensive scheme, Van Horne wasn't worried about picking up the system. He'll be a little tentative at first because he'll have to do more thinking than reacting. Once it becomes natural, Van Horne should excel.

He's been doing just that since he was selected with the 11th overall pick of the 1981 draft. He secured the starting right tackle spot four games into his rookie season and hasn't been moved out since. His 166 starts are the most by any current Bear and third in team history behind Walter Payton (184) and Mike Singletary (172). Van Horne hasn't missed a game during the last three seasons.

"I'm glad he's here," said offensive line coach Tony Wise. "Slowly but surely we'll get him right back in there. My

impression of him is that he knows what's going on and he's a real professional. He's got real good football sense in my opinion. I think he'll get up to speed pretty quickly."

Van Horne was working out on his own, but until you're hit by a 290-pound defensive tackle, you're not ready to start the football season.

"I've got to get into football shape," Van Horne said. "It's a lot different than just being in shape. The physical part—technique and conditioning—is what I'm really lacking. The mental part is not going to be that different because I've been at all the minicamps and all the meetings. I should be able to pick that up rather quickly."

Bears offensive line picture

Projected starters		Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	G-GS
OT	Keith Van Horne	6-6	290	13	16-16
OT	Troy Auzenne	6-7	290	2	16-16
OG	Mark Bortz	6-6	282	11	12-12
OG	John Wojciechowski	6-4	280	7	16-4
C	Jerry Fontenot	6-3	287	5	16-16

Key reserves

C/G	Jay Leeuwenburg	6-2	290	2	12-0
OT	James Williams	6-7	335	3	5-0

On the bubble

OT	Louis Age	6-7	350	2	6-0
OT	Todd Burger	6-3	266	R	-----
OT	Mike DeHoog	6-4	298	R	-----
OG	Mirko Jurkovic	6-3	290	1	0-0
OT	Todd Perry	6-5	291	R	-----
OG	Vernice Smith	6-3	298	5	-----
OT	Stan Thomas	6-5	295	3	11-0

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Kevin Butler has learned that the life of an NFL kicker encompasses a wide range of emotions, from agony (after missing his third field goal in a 1986 game he eventually won with a 42-yarder against the Pittsburgh Steelers)...

to ecstasy (after connecting on yet another game-winner). That pressure should be easier to deal with this season with the arrival of new coach Dave Wannstedt. (Bear Report file photos by Steve Woltmann)

Butler gives stress the boot

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.- Mike Ditka called Kevin Butler "gutless" after he kicked off out of bounds against Tampa Bay last November 15.

Then, after Butler sailed a possible tying 44-yard field goal attempt wide left as time expired in a 20-17 loss, Ditka continued to chip away at the confidence of the nine-year veteran who holds 17 club records and two NFL marks.

No wonder Butler shed no tears when Ditka was fired last January and replaced by a less combustible Dave Wannstedt.

"It is different now. Dave walks up and we will start talking. I'll turn around and Dave will be standing there. I almost feel like a little kid caught in the hall by his principal. You wonder what the hell you have done wrong. But you have done nothing wrong. It is a little unique," said Butler, who made 19 of 26 field goal attempts and all 34 of his extra point tries last season.

"The first thing I have to do is really prove myself to these coaches. It is kind of a unique situation because they don't know any of the history. I will work on my confidence a little bit more because it has been stressful around here the last couple of years kicking. It is a stressful job, anyway."

Butler will be adding to his career franchise scoring record of 813 points. He has made 9 of 13 attempts in his career with less than a minute to go or in overtime. After two of those misses, the Bears won in overtime on a Butler field goal. A third miss was a 50-yarder in the snow.

"Last year in Tampa Bay, it was the first time in my career... college, high school... that I ever cost the team the game," said Butler. "Definitely, that is something in the back of my mind. That is something you don't ever want to get used to."

Imagine a golfer trying to sink a 10-foot putt with a coach shouting at him from the edge of the green. That is the dif-

FRED MITCHELL



ference between Ditka and Wannstedt as far as Butler is concerned.

"It makes a big difference," said Butler. "It is very easy to tell whether a coach has confidence in you or not. And that probably helps me do my job better. It was very evident during certain points of my career... I don't know if Ditka lost confidence in me, but he definitely lost something in me."

"No matter what happened, I think this was the kind of change we had to make to get a positive atmosphere. Not that it was Mike Ditka's fault. We were all bad. I probably got a little more respect among my peers than I had known before Ditka got fired. A lot of guys said: 'You really did a good job under the circumstances.'"

Wannstedt has confidence Butler will improve his long-range field goal accuracy. Rookie free agent Scott Bonnell of Indiana is his only competition in camp, although punter Chris Gardocki can also place kick.

"I've got to improve my 40-yards-and-out percentage, without a doubt. Last year I was 1 of 7 from 40 and out. And that came from a two-game span, basically. You can make a big deal about it. And with a lot of people that does stick out. But I don't think it is anything that I can't fix," said Butler, who has hit from 52 yards four times in his NFL career.

"Last year Ditka let me go out on the

field at Houston and start taking my practice steps for a 52-yarder. Then he pulls me off. And I had been hitting them well farther than that the whole time (in warmups). It was no big deal, but who the hell knows when you are going to kick?

"The communication is much better in that way this year. When a coach makes up his mind about what you can kick and what you can't kick, that is something I can't control. And that is something I have been faced with for quite a few years."

"Mechanically, I am kicking the ball good right now. I have got a new holder—Chris Gardocki. I wish I can have as many years in my career as I have had holders. I would be here a long time. I am getting good work with Chris now. But now we are shuffling snappers again."

Quarterbacks Jim Harbaugh and Peter Tom Willis shared holding duties last year.

"Chris used to be a quarterback (in high school). He has good hands and he is a good athlete. Any kicker is a pretty good holder. I am a good holder. That is because you know how important it is," said Butler.

Butler and Gardocki will share kickoff duties again for Wannstedt and second-year special teams coach Danny Abramowicz.

"It was like the Twilight Zone kicking off with Mike Ditka on the sideline," said Butler. "Steve Kazor (special teams coach from 1982 to '91) was there and there was not that much communication about that portion of the game. Sometimes I was told two different directions to kick it. It just got to be comical at the end."

"I definitely don't kick off as far as a (New Orleans Saints Pro Bowler) Morten Andersen. But I don't have the luxury of kicking indoors. Chris Gardocki has a stronger leg than I do. But people don't just come into Soldier Field and kick off deep. Nobody kicks them out of the end zone in Chicago. You try to get it done the best you can when winter sets in in

Chicago. It is a stigma I keep fighting. It is a challenge for me. Chris is definitely on the first team now. But I have a little bit better hang time and he has a little bit better distance."

Butler has a career field goal percentage of 72.6 on 172 of 237 attempts.

"The main thing for us to be successful is for me to have good timing. That only comes with some repetitions, which I am getting. That is a big plus for me this year. Each morning we start every practice with field goals. That is a luxury for me because I have never been able to have that before. We have a 5-minute live field goal drill every practice."

"Those go a long way in a training camp situation. Because you can go out and kick all day. But until you have (defenders) coming at you, that is where you gain your confidence and concentration."

The Bears will have rookie speedster Curtis Conway returning kickoffs this season and probably Donnell Woolford bringing back punts. They will be surrounded by faster players, as well. Veteran Maurice Douglass, who led the team in special teams tackles last year, should star again on kick coverage.

"We have different personnel on special teams; we are a lot faster," said Butler. "We were probably one of the slowest kickoff coverage teams in the league. People don't take that into consideration. They just say that my kickoffs went to the 20-yard line. That is a bunch of crap. You have got to be able to match up and get downfield."

"We are going to carry more linebackers on this team and we are going to carry special team players. That is their philosophy. We carried a lot of defensive backs under Mike and some extra offensive linemen. We had big guys running down there, but they just weren't fast enough."

Fred Mitchell covers the Bears for the Chicago Tribune.



HOME GAMES

Name: Joe Cain
Position: Outside linebacker
College: Oregon Tech
Ht., Wt.: 6-1, 233
Born: June 1, 1965
Family: Wife (Tiffani), daughter (Ayana)
Acquired: Signed as restricted free agent in March

Hobbies: Music is my favorite thing. I collect a lot of jazz, a lot of reggae, and a lot of old funk music.

Best time of my life: When I was a kid and didn't have any bills.

Worst job I ever had: I never had a job growing up. I always mowed lawns, so I was basically working for myself.

Most humbling experience: Being cut from the Vikings in '88. It was the last cut and I didn't make it. That was pretty humbling. It made me a little bit hungrier and more focused.

I stay home to watch: "The Simpsons," and "Roc."

Favorite performer: (Reggae singer) Bunny Wailers.

I've never been able to: Fly

Favorite childhood memories: Going fishing with my parents, and after little league football games my parents would always greet me from the stands.

Growing up I wanted to be: A football player. I wanted to be like Mean Joe Greene. He was my idol.

Favorite food: Gumbo. My wife cooks a pretty mean gumbo.

My sports fantasy is: I don't really have a sports fantasy. I'd say the Super Bowl, but that's not a fantasy.

Personal heroes: My mother, my father, and Muhammed Ali.

Last good movie I saw: "Posse"

I'd like to trade place for a day with: The guy who won that \$101 million lottery.

If I wasn't playing football I'd: Probably be a chef by now.

One word that best describes me: Wow!



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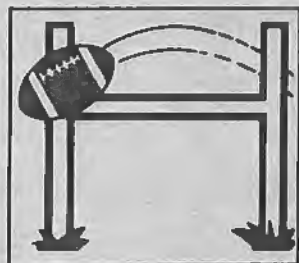
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EXTRA POINTS

Anderson still out with injury

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.—Evaluating a pizza before the cheese is added is an impossible task. Bears coach Dave Wannstedt is finding it just as maddening trying to gauge the progress of his offense without its key ingredient.

Neal Anderson remains out with a hamstring injury, about a week after he was initially expected to return.

"Any time you don't have your starting tailback in there, there's an uncertainty about where you're exactly at," Wannstedt said Tuesday afternoon. "Darren Lewis is doing a nice job, but until I see Neal full speed in some practices and in a preseason game, then I can come close to answering where we're at as far as the running game."

Anderson was hampered by hamstring injuries in 1991 when his production fell to 747 yards from the 1,078 yards he gained in 1990. Last season he rushed for only 582 yards on 156 carries. Anderson, who's expected back for Saturday's preseason game against Phoenix, may never regain the form he demonstrated in the late '80s. That leaves Lewis as the heir apparent.

A sixth-round pick in the 1991 draft, Lewis gained 382 yards on 90 carries last season. With Mark Green also temporarily sidelined with a sore knee, Lewis is getting the majority of repetitions in practice. And he's loving it.

"Training camp is work, and I need the work," he said. "Neal is hurt and he's going to take his time getting back. My main concern is just to be ready and be prepared. We've all got to make the ball club."

The new coaching staff named Anderson the starter shortly after they took the reins. Lewis says he took the

decision in stride. "That's something as a player you have to deal with," he said. "I'm a team player. Whatever it takes to contribute, I'm going to do. Just because they said it's Neal, that doesn't upset me."

Lewis has been solid but not spectacular in practice. He's quick and powerful but tends to wait too long for a hole to open up. That's something Wannstedt and running backs coach Joe Pendry are working on.

"Darren's had a good week of practice," Wannstedt said. "Darren's got the ability. No one will ever question that. I just want to see him be more consistent in his north-south type of running."

Until Anderson returns, Lewis will be the featured back. In Wannstedt's offense, the tailback can expect to log 90 percent of the carries. That's a challenge Lewis relishes.

"That's one of the things I dream about, just carrying the ball," he said. "Our responsibilities are to protect the ball and make things happen with the ball. So it's a lot of pressure, too, because they're depending on you. That's a heavy workload."



BLACKWELL BACK: The Bears offense—and specifically the tight end position—was bolstered last week by the return of Kelly Blackwell. Blackwell had injured his knee during testing drills in Lake Forest and required surgery to repair the damage.

In a wide open race, Blackwell is competing for a job with incumbent Keith Jennings, impressive rookie Ryan Wetnight and recent free agent signee Danta Whitaker. Third-round draft pick Chris Gedney of Syracuse is out until mid-season with a broken collarbone he suffered in the Bears' intrasquad scrimmage July 24.

"I'm doing well," Blackwell said after his first practice. "I'm not one hundred percent, but you can't make the football team watching from the sideline. You've got to be out here. I'm way behind and I've got a lot of ground to make up."

Blackwell religiously attended voluntary off-season workouts at Halas Hall, but that seemed like a distant memory to him after doing drills for the first time in Platteville.

"It's like all of that off-season work didn't pay off because I had to sit out a couple of weeks," he said. "I'm a lot stronger, and my legs will come back hopefully pretty quick. I am a little tired, though."

Blackwell caught five passes for 54 yards as a rookie last season. He was the



Neal Anderson's nagging hamstring injury forced him to miss Sunday night's preseason opener at Philadelphia. Anderson is expected back this week. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)

only undrafted rookie to make the Bears roster one year after finishing his college career at Texas Christian University with 2,154 receiving yards, the most ever by an NCAA Division I tight end. He, like the others he's competing against, has designs on the starting spot.

"I thought it was a big opportunity coming into this year," Blackwell said. "I was very disappointed when I had to have surgery, but with people banged up a little at our position, I think it's a great opportunity for me to come in and open a few eyes."

For now, Blackwell is listed third on the depth chart behind Jennings and Wetnight.



"HEALING PROCESS: Speaking on injuries, several Bears continue to heal. Green had some fluid on his knee last Monday night but was expected to return a few days later. Cornerback Lemuel Stinson hurt his hamstring, joining fellow cornerback Anthony Blaylock on the sidelines. Stinson's prognosis is unknown. Meanwhile, Blaylock is expected back by the regular season opener, as is defensive tackle Tim Ryan (knee). Right tackle Stan Thomas sat out Wednesday with a sore toe.

"There's very encouraging news about all of our injuries," Wannstedt said. "Guys are getting better and guys are working extremely hard to rehab. Today we got Kelly Blackwell back and he actually made a couple of plays, so that's positive."

Players who sat out practice last week with minor injuries included receivers Anthony Morgan (leg) and Tom Waddle (leg). Safety John Mangum remains out with a hamstring pull. Anderson should be ready for the final three preseason contests.



"If we had to play a game today, Tom would be fine," Wannstedt said. "We just wanted to be cautious. With Neal, he ran this morning and our plan is to have him ready to go full speed for the Phoenix game and the New Orleans game."

ROSTER MOVES: Along with Keith Van Horne, the Bears signed free agent offensive tackle Mike DeHoog, a 6-foot-4, 296-pounder from Utah, and cut linebacker Maurice Miller to reach the 80-man roster limit. Linebacker John Roper is the only unsigned Bears player. Injured guard Tom Thayer doesn't count against the roster. The first league-mandated cut-down is Tuesday, August 24 when each team must trim its roster to 60. The final 47-man roster will be determined by Monday, August 30.

After that, teams will be allowed to add six players to bring the total number to 53. The new system is designed to prevent teams from stashing players on Injured Reserve. There will be no four-game Injured Reserve lists this season. Teams will carry 53 but are required to dress only 45 plus a third quarterback.

Teams will also carry six-man practice squads consisting of players who've been in the league less than a full season.

The Bears don't anticipate making any cuts before the first league deadline.

"We'll take a long hard look after the Philadelphia game," Wannstedt said. "As long as a guy's out here working and contributing, you never know what could happen with injuries and crazy things. I don't want to be premature in those areas."

"If a guy's not doing what we're asking or there are other problems, then you do something really quick. But that hasn't been the case so far."

Things that make you go hmmm...

Jim Schwantz is the fastest linebacker on the Bears roster. Schwantz was timed at 4.6 in the 40-yard dash. He's also among the most athletic with a 34 1/2-inch verticle jump and one of the best 20-yard shuttle times.

The Jeff George holdout in Indianapolis opened some fascinating new possibilities for player-management relations in the new era of "cooperation."

George is pro football's first \$2 million holdout. His six-year contract, signed when he was the league's No. 1 draft choice in 1990, averages \$2.16 million per year. It has three years to go. He could be sport's first \$2 million holdout, although Rickey Henderson must have held out of a baseball contract somewhere along the line.

In football, this is altogether new territory. George, apparently upset at the way media and fans are treating him and his family, told general manager Jim Irsay he wants out of his hometown.

Money may be the real reason here. Irsay admits he knows only three reasons for holdouts—money, money, and money. George's agent, Leigh Steinberg, had just signed the 1993 No. 1 pick, Drew Bledsoe, to a huge contract. The Colts had just signed free agent tackle Will Wolford to a contract that provided he be the highest-paid offensive player on the Colts for two years. So it is possible George got his nose out of joint, deciding that \$2.16 million a year is all right, but it shows a lack of respect.

But Irsay insisted money is a secondary issue here. George just doesn't want to take the heat in his hometown kitchen. Irsay warns that he won't trade him, even if he sits out a year the way Bobby Hebert sat in New Orleans in another case of hometown-boy-makes-good-but-not-good-enough.

Irsay is fining George \$4,000 a day for his absence from training camp. That's a steep price and reporters dutifully ring up the new totals every day. Trouble is, if George sat out the entire year, he would owe only \$1.46 million. That would leave him \$700,000 to live on, and he probably could accomplish it comfortably in Indianapolis.

Irsay has more leverage. A clause in the contract may require George to return his signing bonus. He could wind up owing the Colts \$3 million. There may be more than that. The Colts could get their lawyers to take a look at the recent Hollywood case involving a movie studio's oral contract with star Kim Basinger.

Is Jeff George holdout all about money?

DON PIERSON



When Basinger backed out of a movie deal, the studio sued her and won, forcing her to pay restitution for the money the studio had spent creating and producing a movie around her as star. Surely a good attorney could draw some valid parallels to convince a judge and jury that the Colts have spent the last three years of their existence retooling their franchise to conform to George's every need.

But while George apparently has little legal ground to stand on and less sympathy to comfort him, he may need neither. At today's prices, athletes really can afford to wield some leverage of their own, even if it's no more than sticking out their tongues and whining, "I don't wanna play with you anymore."

Think about it. In the old days (last year, the year before?), when athletes held out, management as well as average fans would shrug and say, "Where else are they going to make \$100,000 a year?" Soon, the athlete would arrive at the same conclusion and return to the fold.

Now, the same logic can't be applied in

the same way. On the one hand, you argue, "Where is Jeff George going to make \$2 million?" Nowhere, it is true. But on the other hand, George made \$2 million in 1990, \$2 million in 1991, and \$2 million in 1992.

If George or his accountants have a brain in their heads, George really doesn't need to make \$2 million in 1993. He already has won the lottery once, twice, three times. He should be set for life. If he doesn't like the way his friends and neighbors treat him in Indianapolis, he can buy new ones.

It puts teams in an entirely new position. Today's salaries are making players so rich they don't need to work anymore. That is the dilemma the Colts face with George. Other teams in other sports will be watching closely for the solution.

NFC CENTRAL CAMP REPORT—

The Vikings were happy to get Jim McMahon, but lost center Kirk Lowdermilk to Indianapolis and left tackle Gary Zimmerman to jealousy, leaving McMahon without top blockers. Then running back Terry Allen got hurt and may require knee surgery, leaving McMahon with only Roger Craig to hand off to.

Lowdermilk said he "would bet my signing bonus Zimmerman won't play with the Vikings again." That's good news for Richard Dent, Pat Swilling, Tony Bennett and whoever Tampa Bay has

rushing from the right side this year.

Swilling and Lions' coach Wayne Fontes didn't like what they saw in Detroit's first preseason game. They spent a bundle to bring in the pass rusher from New Orleans, figuring his presence would elevate the entire defense. Instead, it only exposed more weakness.

"I was disappointed we didn't get pressure from the other side and from our two inside people. It was by far the worst they (Robert Porcher and Kelvin Pritchett) have played," Fontes said.

Added Swilling: "I've got to have a supporting cast, got to have guys around me doing their responsibilities. In New Orleans, we had four great linebackers and some other good players. Here, we're a little bit limited."

Green Bay is happy to get offensive tackle Tootie Robbins back. He signed with New Orleans as a free agent, but suffered a shoulder injury the first day of camp. The Saints subsequently released him and the Packers welcomed him back with open arms. Robbins played at the end of last season with a shoulder harness.

Don Pierson covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Tribune.

"Huddle talk

The main difference we're going to see on special teams this year is the swarm attitude, trying to get everybody to the ball as quickly as possible."

--Special teams gunner Maurice Douglass

Bears 1993 Schedule

PRESEASON

Date	Opponent	Time*	Network
Sun., Aug. 8	at Philadelphia Eagles	1:00 p.m.	TNT
Sat., Aug. 14	PHOENIX CARDINALS	7:00 p.m.	WMAQ
Mon., Aug. 23	at New Orleans Saints	7:00 p.m.	ABC
Fri., Aug. 27	DALLAS COWBOYS	8:00 p.m.	WMAQ

REGULAR SEASON

Sun., Sept. 5	NEW YORK GIANTS	3:00 p.m.	CBS
Sun., Sept. 12	at Minnesota Vikings	Noon	CBS
Sun., Sept. 19	Bye Week		
Sun., Sept. 26	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Oct. 3	ATLANTA FALCONS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Oct. 10	at Philadelphia Eagles	Noon	CBS
Sun., Oct. 17	Bye Week		
Mon., Oct. 25	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	8:00 p.m.	ABC
Sun., Oct. 31	at Green Bay Packers	Noon	CBS
Sun., Nov. 7	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	3:00 p.m.	NBC
Sun., Nov. 14	at San Diego Chargers	7:00 p.m.	ESPN
Sun., Nov. 21	at Kansas City Chiefs	Noon	CBS
Thurs., Nov. 25	at Detroit Lions	11:30 a.m.	CBS
Sun., Dec. 5	GREEN BAY PACKERS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Dec. 12	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Noon	CBS
Sat., Dec. 18	DENVER BRONCOS	11:30 a.m.	NBC
Sun., Dec. 26	DETROIT LIONS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Jan. 2, 1994	at Los Angeles Rams	3:00 p.m.	CBS

*Chicago time

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Eagles ruin Dave's debut

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Though a potential game-winning two minute drill fizzled into oblivion, Dave Wannstedt's head coaching debut went smoothly in the Bears' 13-9 loss in their preseason opener Sunday night in Philadelphia.

"I caught myself back on the bench a couple of times trying to draw things up, and then all of a sudden they said Ron (Turner) wants to talk to you about the offense, and I forgot I had to scurry up to the sidelines," said Wannstedt, previously the defensive coordinator of the Dallas Cowboys. "But it went smooth and the coaches did a great job. The communication back and forth was good. So we go from here. There will be a lot of stuff we'll get out of this film believe me."

Shaky and deliberate early, the Bears' offense kicked into gear in the waning moments of the first half. After their first five possessions produced only one first down, the Bears marched 74 yards on four plays down to the Eagles' 1-yard line.

First, Jim Harbaugh hit Craig Heyward

for a 15-yard pickoff off a neat scramble. Harbaugh then flipped a short pass over the middle to Darren Lewis, who picked up 15 more yards. Harbaugh followed by connecting with rookie free agent Ryan Wetnight for a 26-yard gain down the left sideline.

With the ball at the 10, Heyward burst up the middle for nine yards, advancing the ball to the Eagles' 1. Philadelphia responded by stuffing Lewis for a one-yard loss. On third down, Harbaugh calmly faked an inside handoff and lofted a pass to a wide open Heyward, who dropped a sure touchdown.

Kevin Butler salvaged the missed opportunity with a 20-yard field goal to draw the Bears to within 6-3 with less than a minute left in the half.

The Bears' defense then forced a Jeff Feagles punt, and Donnell Woolford called a fair catch at the Chicago 46. With no time remaining, Chris Gardocki came out on the field to attempt an uncontested 63-yard free kick field goal but the boot was short and wide to the right, and the Bears went into the locker room trailing 6-3.

The offense showed some signs of life after an anemic start. The Bears went three plays and out on four of their first five possessions. Their only first down during that stretch was a fluke. It came on a Tom Waddle reception that deflected high into the air off the hands of Wetnight.

Before Chicago's final first half possession, Harbaugh was not sharp. Eagles cornerback Eric Allen nearly picked off three

passes, and Harbaugh overthrew an open Anthony Morgan down the right sideline.

Defensively, middle linebacker Dante Jones came out hitting. The heir apparent to Mike Singletary made two bone jarring hits on Herschel Walker and James Joseph that were reminiscent of Singletary himself. Jones looked comfortable in the role, reading plays and slipping blocks to get to the ball with authority.

Linebacker Ron Cox was also all over the field, sliding to the sideline to drill Walker after a nine-yard reception and stuffing Siren Stacy for a one-yard loss early in the second quarter.

The Eagles opened the scoring on a 44-yard field goal by Roger Ruzek with 3:24 left in the first quarter. The Eagles marched 53 yards on 12 plays to set up the kick. On the play preceding the field goal, Bears cornerback Richard Fain injured his knee and was wheeled off the field.

The Bears managed just three yards on their ensuing possession, and the Eagles took over at their own 36. Philadelphia ultimately strung together first downs on three straight plays, moving to the Chicago four-yard line before Jones stopped Stacy on third down.

Ruzek's 22-yard field goal attempt clanked off the left goal post and bounced back onto the field. Ruzek redeemed himself by booting a 24-yarder with 6:33 left in the half to put the Eagles ahead 6-0.

The Eagles dominated the first half, holding the ball for 16 of the game's first 23 minutes. Philadelphia outrushed Chicago 121-17 over the first 30 minutes.

Peter Tom Willis replaced Harbaugh to open the second half, and completed both passes he attempted on the Bears' initial drive of the third quarter. The second was first-round pick Curtis Conway's first NFL reception, but it's one Conway would like to forget. The former USC speedster coughed up the ball and the Eagles recovered at midfield. It appeared Conway's knee had touched the ground before the ball came loose. But in this era of no instant replay, the call stood.

The Eagles converted the game's first turnover into the game's first touchdown. Back-up quarterback Bubby Brister engineered a nine-play, 50-yard drive, capped by a 1-yard dash by rookie Vaughn Hebron that gave the Eagles a 13-3 lead with 3:43 left in the third period.

Conway's second NFL catch was more memorable than his first. Willis got hit as he threw and the ball fluttered out to the left sideline. Conway adjusted his route and fought off an Eagles' defender for the ball. A few plays later, Conway burned cornerback Keita Crespina but Willis underthrew the ball. As Conway slowed, Crespina ran over his back, drawing a pass interference penalty that pushed the ball down to the Eagles' 24.

Bob Christian followed with a short 6-yard reception, then Mark Green burst up the middle for nine yards down to the 10 on the final play of the third quarter. After a two-yard gain by rookie Dewell Brewer, Willis was sacked on a play-action rollout back at the Eagles' 14. On third and goal, guard Vernice Smith and a few others jumped offside, moving the ball back to the 19.

Conway was then open in the right corner of the end zone, but Willis lofted the ball too high and cornerback Mark McMillian recovered to bat it away. Butler followed by nailing a 36-yard field goal to draw the Bears to within 13-6.

Wannstedt implemented an aggressive defensive scheme as soon as he took over as coach of the Bears. The first results of that showed up early in the fourth quarter. First, eighth-round draft pick Keshon Johnson punched the ball out of a ball carrier's arms, but it rolled harmlessly out of bounds.

A few plays later Myron Baker stripped the ball from an Eagles receiver and free agent defensive back Tracy Saul scooped up the fumble and returned it 22 yards.

On the Bears' next possession, Will Furrer underthrew Conway, and Crespina again interfered with him. The penalty went for 35 yards, and gave the Bears a first down at the Eagles' 12. The Bears were eventually stopped, and rookie free agent Scott Bonnell hit a 33-yard field goal to draw the Bears to within 13-9 with 7:34 left in the game.

The Bears ultimately had a chance to pull it out. Furrer directed a two-minute drill deep into Eagles territory by connecting with fullback Greg Zomalt three times and by scrambling.

The Bears got as close as the 17, but Furrer threw four straight incompletions to end the game. The final pass landed five yards out of bounds in the end zone, at least 20 yards from the closest target.



9

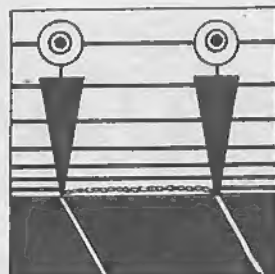


13



Bears quarterback Jim Harbaugh played the first half of Sunday night's 13-9 loss to the

Eagles. Harbaugh completed 7 of 14 passes for 97 yards. (File photo by Steve Woltmann)



GAME STATISTICS

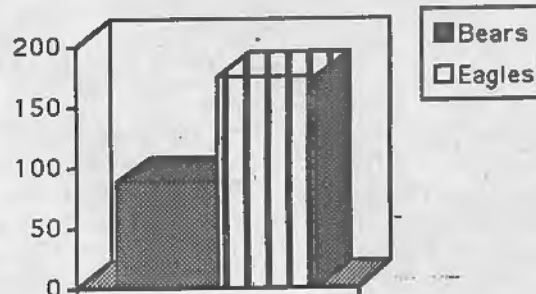
SCORING SUMMARY

Bears	0	3	3	3	9
Philadelphia Eagles	3	3	7	0	13

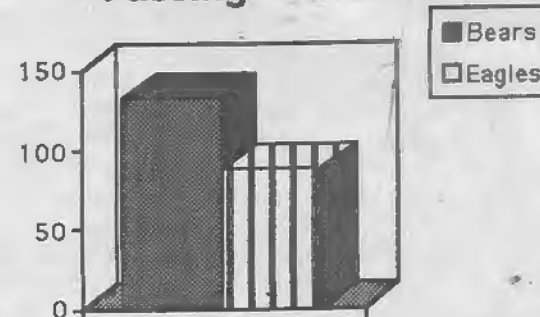
Eagles, 1, 11:36, Ruzek 44 yd. field goal, 0-3
 Eagles, 2, 8:27, Ruzek 24 yd. field goal, 0-8
 Bears, 2, 14:23, Butler 19 yd. field goal, 3-6
 Eagles, 3, 3:44, Hebron 1 yd. run (Ruzek, kick), 3-13
 Bears, 4, 13:49, Butler 36 yd. field goal, 6-13
 Bears, 4, 7:34, Bonnell 32 yd. field goal, 9-13

	Bears	Eagles
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	14	17
By Rushing	5	12
By Passing	5	5
By Penalty	4	0
3RD DOWN EFFICIENCY		
Made	4	4
Attempted	14	13
Percent Made	29%	31%
4TH DOWN EFFICIENCY		
Made	0	0
Attempted	1	0
Percent Made	0	0
TOTAL NET YARDS	220	262
Total Off. Plays	58	60
Av. Gain Per Play	3.8	4.4
NET YARDS RUSHING	88	174
Total Rushing Plays	28	36
Av. Gain Per Rush	3.1	4.8
NET YARDS PASSING	132	88
Sacked		
Yards Lost	19	9
Gross Yds. Passing	151	97
Attempts	28	22
Completions	15	16
Interceptions	0	1
Av. Gain Per Pass Pl.	4.4	3.7
PUNTS		
Yards	209	196
Average	41.8	39.2
Had Blocked	0	0
PENALTIES		
Yards	40	90
FUMBLES		
Lost	2	1
TOUCHDOWNS		
Rushing	0	1
Passing	0	0
Returns	0	0
FIELD GOALS MADE		
Attempted	3	3
TIME OF POSSESSION	27:32	32:28

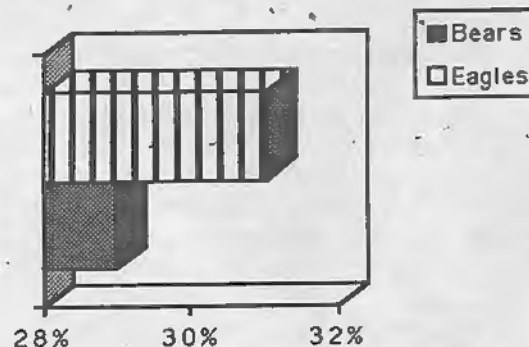
Rushing Yards



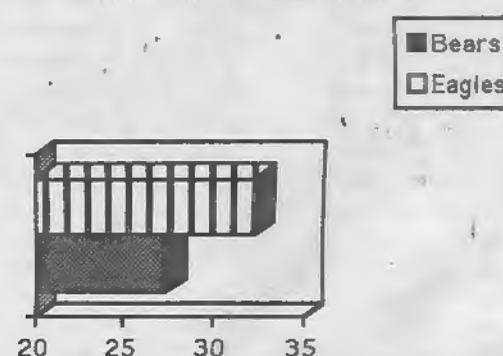
Passing Yards



3rd-Down Conversions



Time of Possession



CHICAGO BEARS

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Lewis	8	13	1.6	6	0
Heyward	1	2	2	2	0
Green	5	21	4.2	9	0
Christian	3	11	3.7	5	0
Brewer	5	10	2.0	3	0
Irlow	1	-1	-1	-1	0
Furrer	3	21	7	13	0
Willis	1	7	7	7	0
Walt	1	4	4	4	0

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	Sack	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Harbaugh	14	7	97	1	13	0	27	0
Willis	5	4	34	1	6	0	14	0
Furrer	9	4	20	0	0	0	8	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Waddle	1	10	10	0
Morgan	1	5	5	0
Heyward	3	31	15	0
Lewis	1	24	24	0
Wenight	1	27	27	0
Christian	2	12	6	0
Conway	2	22	14	0
Brewer	1	5	5	0
Tomalt	3	15	8	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Douglass	1	4	4	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Hardock	5	209	41.8	0	0	53

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Woolford	1	1	-1	-1	0
Conway	1	1	5	5	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Conway	4		79	23	0

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Walker	5	15	3	6	0
Joseph	4	15	3.8	7	0
Cunningham	4	34	8.5	19	0
Stacy	10	57	5.7	35	0
Hebron	11	52	4.7	16	1
Weldon	1	-1	-1	-1	0
Emanuel	1	2	2	2	0

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	Sack	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Cunningham	7	5	45	1	1	0	11	0
Brister	12	10	45	0	0	0	16	0
Weldon	3	1	7	1	8	0	7	1

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Williams	1	11	11	0
Walker	1	9	9	0
Bavaro	1	10	10	0
Stacy	4	3	7	0
Joseph	2	9	8	0
Sydney	3	17	11	0
Garlick	2	15	10	0
Mickey	1	16	16	0
Mont-Mery	1	7	7	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Feagles	4	148	37.0	0	1	53
Sattrock	1	48	48	0	0	48

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Sikahema	3	2	19	14	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Sikahema	1	23	23	0
Sydney	3	81	3.2	0

CHICAGO BEARS

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Carrier	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
Woolford	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gayle	6	0	0	0	0	1	0
Fain	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paul	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Douglass	1	2	0	0	1	1	0
Lincoln	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schwartz	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cox	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cain	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baker	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perry	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
McMichael	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paulk	1	2	0	0	0	1	0
Armstrong	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Dent	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Zorich	3	1	1	8	0	0	0

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Crespina	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barlow	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gerhart	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
McMillan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frizzell	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reid	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
M. Thomas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
McMillan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
W. Thomas	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hager	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rose	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Kowalkowski	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oden	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joyner	4	2	1/2	6.5	0	0	0
Brown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chalenski	1	1	1	6	0	0	0
Millard	0	1	1/2	6.5	0	0	0
Carter	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Renfro	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flores	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simmons	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harris	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allen	0	0	0	0	0	3	0





Richard Dent

Chicago

SPORT REPORT

Thomas may be on way out

Lincoln, Fain shine at CB

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.—Keith Van Horne's arrival at training camp Tuesday night left third-year tackle Stan Thomas in a precarious position.

A week after being demoted behind converted defensive lineman James "Big Cat" Williams, Thomas now faces an uphill battle just to make the team. He has sunk to third on the depth chart at right tackle, and the Bears may keep just three tackles period.

Although the Bears have three preseason games remaining, Thomas sounded as if he was giving his concession speech when questioned by reporters last week.

"It's very disappointing," he said. "I'm very upset. I love Chicago, I love the Bears, I love the fans. It's great here. I'd hate to leave, but life goes on and things happen. I'll keep working hard. Obviously there's still time. I can go out in these preseason games and show them what I can do."

A first-round draft pick in 1991, Thomas has failed to live up to expectations. He's also experienced well-documented problems off the field. He knows the law of averages is bound to catch up to him and that positive things are bound to happen. He just wonders when the tide will turn in his favor.

"I've had a lot of problems since I've been here," Thomas said. "Sometimes in life things happen that way. Have I given up? No, I've not thrown in the towel. I'm going to keep working and doing the best I can."

"Have the coaches given up on me? I don't know. I'm out here doing my best. They're going to do what they're going to do, and they pretty much know by now who they'd like to keep and who they wouldn't."

Van Horne and Troy Auzenne are the starting tackles, and Williams will not get any reps at left tackle, according to offensive line coach Tony Wise. That leaves Thomas, converted guard Todd Perry and free agent rookie Todd Burger to battle for the fourth spot. The Bears, however, may not even keep a fourth tackle with the presence of players like John Wojciechowski who can play both guard and tackle.

"We'll probably keep three and maybe four," coach Dave Wannstedt said. "All of a sudden our tackle position has become as competitive as any position on the team, and that's good."

It may not be for Thomas.

"Stan has to get better for us to win," Wise said. "James Williams is going to stay right there (at right tackle). The other tackle (Thomas) has got to be the swing tackle."

Van Horne's presence should solidify a line that's looked sloppy at times in practice. Mark Bortz is

the only starter from last season who's perfectly healthy. Auzenne is suffering from a sore shoulder, guard Tom Thayer is out until at least October with a bad back, center Jerry Fontenot has been practicing with a bad thumb, and Van Horne is recovering from surgery on his Achilles tendon and a slightly strained hamstring.

"After today's practice, I'm concerned with the whole thing," Wise said Monday. "We've got to come together as a unit and find our five guys. We're fragmented right now."



HOT CORNER: With the cornerback position thinning out as a result of hamstring injuries to Anthony Blaylock and Lemuel Stinson, the window of opportunity is wide open for second-year man Jeremy Lincoln, who missed all of last season with a knee injury.

The former Tennessee track star has been taking some reps with the first team defense and has impressed the coaching staff.

"He's been a pleasant surprise," Wannstedt said. "He has all the physical skills, it was just a matter of whether he'd be physical enough as far as tackling. He was a track guy in college. But he seems to want to do those things. I'm very encouraged."

Richard Fain is also making great strides as he gets more work.

"Last year he was basically a nickel back, but he's been out here and performed well," Wannstedt said.

The Bears will likely keep five cornerbacks. Woolford and Blaylock, who's expected back by the season opener, are expected to start. Fain, Lincoln, Stinson and eighth-round draft pick Keshon

Johnson are expected to battle for the three back-up spots



MORE NEWS:

After a sluggish afternoon practice followed by a day off, the enthusiasm was back at Monday's morning workout. "We went back to the routine this morning," Wannstedt said. "We had a full-speed middle drill. I was very encouraged how the guys came out today. The spirit was back up again and everybody was going full-speed again."

...The Bears concentrated on the Eagles only during their Friday afternoon practice. Wannstedt's major concern is the Bears, not their preseason opponents. "We just have too many other things that we have to get done for ourselves," he said. "Heading into the first (preseason game) we're still on basic fundamentals."

...Now that the tight end position has been bolstered by the return of Kelly Blackwell and the signing of free agent Danta Whitaker, Craig "Ironhead" Heyward will concentrate on his responsibilities at fullback. Heyward acted as an



After being dropped to third string at right tackle, 1991 first-round draft pick Stan Thomas could be on his way out of town. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)

extra tight end during some camp drills.

"He's doing fine," Wannstedt said. "We just need to keep him involved in all three downs."

...And finally, if you think Van Horne will catch a break during his first week back, don't bet on it. Wannstedt says Wise will make sure of that. "Tony is a perfectionist as far as where your head's at, where your hands are at, and which foot you're stepping with," Wannstedt said. "Every player is coached on every play."

Special teams still special

There's been a lot of talk about how the offensive and defensive schemes are different under new coach Dave Wannstedt and his staff. But what about special teams?

"It's really the same as far as techniques go," said special teams gunner Maurice Douglass, who led the unit with 19 tackles last season. "This year we're just trying to implement a little bit more of the techniques we're using on defense as far as the rip-through and the swim technique."

"The main difference we're going to see on special teams this year is the swarm attitude, trying to get everybody to the ball as quickly as possible."

With a year under his belt, second-year coach Danny Abramowicz promises more surprises and a carry over from last season.

"We're going to be aggressive again," he said. "My personality is aggressive, and when you think of the Bears you think of aggressive football."

Last season the special teams unit handled the ball 236 times without a turnover, had four takeaways, blocked or deflected two punts and two field goals, and did not have a mishandled field goal, extra point, or punt in 139 snaps. Abramowicz is expecting more of the same this season—plus an improved coverage team that will feature the influx of speedy players.

"One of the big things we've done this year is improve in

the speed category," Abramowicz said. "Some guys will make this team strictly because of special teams play."

Abramowicz singled out Douglass, linebackers Tim Paulk, Jim Schwantz, and Jim Morrissey, defensive backs Mark Carrier and Donnell Woolford, and receiver Curtis Conway as those who've impressed him most in training camp.

"A lot of the young guys need to come through, guys like Albert Fontenot, Carl Simpson and Myron Baker."

The increased speed will be most evident on the Bears' kickoff return team. Right now, Abramowicz plans on dropping Conway, Darren Lewis and Anthony Morgan deep for kickoffs.

Speed isn't always necessarily what makes a special teams player, however. Nor does it matter what position he plays.

"It's all about heart," Douglass said. "Nine out of 10 times that's all special teams is; heart, hustle and getting to the ball. If you want to get the play done, then you'll get it done."

Abramowicz, himself an excellent special teams performer during his career with the Saints and 49ers, agrees wholeheartedly.

"You have to have talent or you wouldn't be out here," he said, "but then comes 'How bad do you want it?' and 'Does it mean something to you?'. If it doesn't mean much to a guy, I don't want him on the team. Let him go play some other position."

A nervous Hall of Fame finally got Walter Payton to stand in one place long enough to induct him. It was a touching scene July 31 in Canton, Ohio. Payton's 12-year-old son Jarrett "presented" him. And Payton delivered a rambling and revealing acceptance speech that was introspective and, at times, highly-personal.

But that is over now. We can go back to our regular lives. But I won't soon stop thinking about Payton.

It's the damndest thing about Payton. He has rushed for 3,558 more yards than anybody in the history of the NFL, but the memories of him that linger in my mind have very little to do with running the football.

There was, for instance, a raw and gray autumn afternoon in the early '80s. It was behind Halas Hall after practice that I spied Payton digging a shallow hole with his right heel.

The next thing I knew, Payton was placing a football into the hole that now served as a kicking tee. The wind was swirling, the angle was an impossible 45 degrees, and the distance, which I later measured to be 44 yards, was daunting.

And here was Payton taking three steps and booming home this unlikely of field goals through the goalposts.

Next, there was this little boy's smile - all white teeth set off by ebony features - dancing on his proud, warrior's face.

Please, Payton's eyes seemed to beg, tell me I can't do something. For then I will do it.

Michael Jordan is the greatest athlete I have seen. Payton is the greatest all-around football player I have seen. Their most compelling similarity is that they live for challenges. And they will go to great lengths to invent them.

During down time in practice, Payton would punt footballs 70 yards. He would do somersaults, backflips and contort his body in other impossible ways. He would sumo-wrestle with William Perry on the sideline.

I've seen all the game film there is to see of Payton. The best stuff is the blocking. He would crouch low in the pocket, wait for the defensive end to beat the tackle, then explode upward and knock the

Playful Payton continues to relish challenges

BRIAN HEWITT



startled pass rusher on his back.

But the best films none of us will see have to be the highlights from Payton's rural Mississippi childhood. The imagination races at the thought of the dusty playground games he must have contrived to ward off the summer boredom.

On the phone the other day, Payton promised he always would remain "playful."

"That's part of life," he said.

Payton's teammates called him "Sweetness." But they were not always amused at his antics. I have yet to meet

a grown man who enjoys having his buttocks pinched by another man. But when you turned around and discovered the perpetrator was Payton, you grinned like a dope and hoped it didn't happen again any time soon.

And a word of warning: If you ever have the opportunity to shake Payton's hand, steel yourself. If he gets a good grip, he will envelop your wrist and forearm with his huge right paw. And if he's in the mood, he will apply enough pressure to bring you to your knees.

"Walter Payton," said Bill Tobin, who scouted him in college, "is not a small back. He's a big back who happens to be short."

In the six years since he retired from football, his hairline has receded more than he would like. And he needs expensive sports cars now to produce the kind of speed, power and adrenaline that got him so naturally high for 13 seasons of National Football League Sundays.

Jordan is an almost lyrical athlete. And Gale Sayers with the

football, not Payton, was poetry in motion

But William Blake's verse about the tiger "burning bright" brings Payton to mind more than any other. Asked Blake "What immortal hand or eye, dare frame thy fearful symmetry?"

You could not frame Payton's jukebox symmetry. And it becomes more improbable by the day he ever will be able to sit still long enough to log the office hours it takes to run an NFL franchise.

Asked Blake: "In what furnace was thy brain?"

Payton could be maddening. Late for appointments. Impatient with the mistakes of others. Short on attention span. Unable to suffer fools gladly the way O.J. Simpson always did.

And, as Payton freely admitted recently, the one gift he never had on the football field was breakaway speed.

Think of it: The guy who gained more NFL yards than anybody before or since basically was flawed as a runner.

But that didn't mean he didn't know how to separate himself from everybody else.

He did. In so many ways.

And having had the privilege of watching it up close was the damndest thing.

One final thing: Walter Payton will not "own" the NFL team expected to be awarded to St. Louis in October.

In fact, Payton has said he won't even be the team's general manager.

"I will not be involved on a day-to-day basis," he said.

Nor will he move his family to St. Louis. Sources say he will own between 10 percent and 15 percent of the team, and his primary role will be as an adviser and as the team's representative to the league's annual owners' meetings.

None of this comes as a great surprise to the league or to the people who have devoted their energies to bringing the NFL back to St. Louis.

But many of those people have allowed the public to think Payton would be the man in charge because they thought the league would look more favorably upon a bid with ties to minority ownership.

Brian Hewitt covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Sun-Times.



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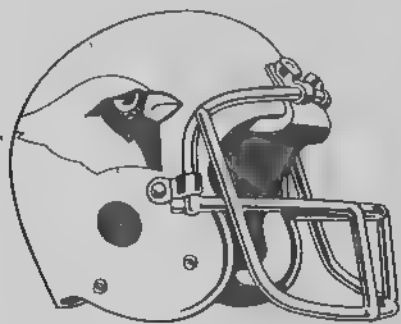
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Phoenix Cardinals

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
1	Cameron Bair	K	6-0	180	22	R	Illinois State
5	Greg Davis	K	6-0	205	26	7	The Citadel
7	Steve Beuerlein	QB	6-3	210	28	5	Notre Dame
9	John Bonds	QB	6-5	230	23	R	N. Arizona
11	Mike Cook	WR	6-4	205	22	R	Stanford
14	Sean Snyder	P	6-1	185	23	R	Kansas State
16	Rich Camarillo	P	5-11	200	33	13	Washington
17	Chris Chandler	QB	6-4	225	27	6	Washington
18	Ed Sullivan	WR	5-10	175	22	R	Catholic
19	Tony Sacca	QB	6-5	235	22	2	Penn St.
20	Johnny Bailey	RB/KR	5-8	190	25	4	Texas A&M
21	Dexter Davis	CB	5-10	185	23	3	Clemson
22	Dave Duerson	SS	6-1	220	32	12	Notre Dame
23	Garrison Hearst	RB	5-11	215	21	R	Georgia
24	Will White	S	6-1	200	22	R	Florida
25	Eric Blount	RB/KR	5-9	200	22	2	North Carolina
26	Chuck Cecil	FS	6-0	185	28	6	Arizona
27	Chris Oldham	CB	5-10	195	24	4	Oregon
28	Steve Lofton	CB	5-9	185	24	3	Texas A&M
29	Lorenzo Lyncog	CB	5-11	200	29	7	Cal. St.-Sacramento
30	Ron Moore	RB	5-10	220	23	R	Pittsburg St.
31	Odie Harris	S	6-0	190	28	6	Sam Houston St.
32	George Searcy	RB	6-0	230	24	1	E. Tennessee St.
33	Ivory Lee Brown	RB	6-3	280	23	2	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
34	Carl Trumble	RB	5-11	200	22	R	Furman
35	Aeneas Williams	CB	5-10	190	24	3	Southern
36	Darren Stohmann	WR	6-5	215	24	R	Neb. Wesleyan
37	Larry Centers	RB	5-11	215	24	4	Stephen F. Austin
38	Michael Zordich	WS	6-1	201	29	7	Penn State
40	Robert Massey	CB	5-11	195	25	5	N. Carolina Cen.
41	Robert Jackson	WR	6-2	200	23	1	Central St.
42	John Booley	S	6-0	180	27	6	Texas Christian
43	Steve Anderson	WR	6-5	205	22	R	Grambling St.
44	Nathan LaDuke	S	6-0	205	24	1	Arizona State
47	Dexter Butler	WR	5-10	175	24	R	Grambling St.
48	Keith Franklin	LB	6-3	230	23	R	South Carolina
49	Chad Fann	TE	6-3	250	22	R	Florida A&M
50	Freddie Joe Nunn	OLB	6-5	255	30	9	Mississippi
52	Scott Stephen	OLB	6-3	243	29	7	Arizona St.
53	Garth Jax	ILB	6-2	250	29	8	Florida State
54	David Braxton	OLB	6-2	240	27	5	Wake Forest
55	Jock Jones	OLB	6-3	240	25	4	Virginia Tech
56	Ken Harvey	OLB	6-2	245	27	6	California
57	Kan Kauahi	C	6-3	250	33	12	Hawai
58	Eric Hill	ILB	6-2	255	26	5	Louisiana St.
59	Ed Cunningham	C	6-3	285	23	2	Washington
60	Willie Williams	T	6-6	295	25	2	Louisiana St.
61	Lance Smith	G	6-3	285	29	9	Louisiana St.
62	Ben Coleman	T	6-6	335	21	R	Wake Forest
63	Michael Bankston	DL	6-3	280	22	2	Sam Houston St.
64	Rick Cunningham	T	6-7	320	26	3	Texas A&M
65	Ernest Dye	T	6-6	325	21	R	South Carolina
66	Gary Pay	C	6-5	275	25	R	Brigham Young
67	Luis Sharpe	T	6-5	280	32	12	UCLA
68	Joe Wolf	OL	6-6	296	25	5	Boston College
69	Marty Malcolm	G	6-5	290	23	R	Central Michigan
71	Mark Tucker	G	6-2	279	23	1	S. California
70	Rob Basley	T	6-5	295	23	2	Iowa
72	Chuckie Johnson	DT	6-4	310	24	R	Auburn
73	Mark May	G	6-6	305	32	13	Pittsburgh
74	Mike Moody	T	6-7	305	24	R	S. California
75	Mike Jones	DE	6-4	295	23	3	N. Carolina St.
76	Willie Richards	DE	6-3	250	24	R	Tennessee
78	Chad Brown	DE	6-7	265	21	R	Mississippi
79	Keith Rucker	DL	6-4	360	24	2	Ohio Wesleyan
80	Willie Wright	TE/HB	6-4	250	24	2	Wyoming
81	Randal Hill	WR	5-10	180	23	3	Miami, Fla.
82	Butch Rolle	HB/TE	6-4	245	28	8	Michigan St.
83	Anthony Edwards	WR	5-10	190	26	5	N. Mexico Highlids.
84	Gary Clark	WR	5-9	175	30	9	James Madison
85	Derek Ware	HB/TE	6-3	250	25	2	Central (Okla.) St.
86	Emie Jones	WR	6-0	200	28	6	Indiana
87	Ricky Proehl	WR	6-0	190	24	4	Wake Forest
89	Walter Reeves	TE	6-4	270	27	5	Auburn
90	Tyronne Stowe	ILB	6-2	250	27	7	Rutgers
91	Ryan Peery	DT	6-5	265	24	1	California
92	Brett Wallerstedt	ILB	6-1	240	22	R	Anzonia St.
93	Reuben Davis	DL	6-5	340	27	6	North Carolina
94	Jeff Faulkner	DE	6-5	300	28	4	Southern
95	Alphonso Taylor	DL	6-3	360	23	1	Temple
96	Edward Wooden	OLB	6-4	250	23	R	Syracuse
97	Steve Hyche	ILB	6-3	250	29	4	Livingston
98	Eric Swann	DL	6-5	295	22	3	None

Facts and Figures

Kickoff: 7 p.m. Chicago time, Sat. August 14.
Playing Surface: Natural grass.
Last meeting: Bears won 31-21 at Phoenix Oct. 28, 1990.

Last preseason meeting: Cards won 20-17 at Phoenix Aug. 15, 1992.

Series history: Bears lead 53-25-6. Bears are 7-6 versus Cardinals since Cards left Chicago.

Radio-TV coverage: The game will be televised live in the Chicago area on WMAQ-TV Channel 5. It will be replayed following "Saturday Night Live." WGN-Radio and the Bears Radio Network will also carry the game live.

Anderson set for preseason debut

Bears starting tailback Neal Anderson, expected to be a key part of the offense this season, should make his preseason debut as the Bears host the Phoenix Cardinals Saturday at Soldier Field. The contest will be Dave Wannstedt's home debut.

The Bears will continue to take a close look at rookies like DT Carl Simpson, LB Myron Baker and DE Albert Fontenot. The competition on the offensive line should also heat up as T Stan Thomas battles for a roster spot.

The competition is just as intense at cornerback, where Richard Fain, Keshon Johnson and Jeremy Lincoln try to move up.

The Cardinals are led by free agent acquisitions WR Gary Clark, S Chuck Cecil, and QB Steve Beuerlein. RB Garrison Hearst remains unsigned.



Neal Anderson is expected to make his preseason debut Saturday night against the Cardinals. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)



Chicago Bears

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
2	Will Furrer	QB	6-3	209	25	2	Virginia Tech
4	Jim Harbaugh	QB	6-3	215	29	7	Michigan
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	190	30	9	Georgia
8	Scott Bonnell	K	5-10	167	23	R	Indiana
9	Shane Matthews	QB	6-3	192	23	R	Florida
10	Peter Tom Willis	QB	6-2	204	26	4	Florida State
11	Troy Faunce	P	6-2	195	29	1	Kansas State
16	Antonio Johnson	WR/KR	5-8	195	24	R	Syracuse
17	Chris Gantlock	P/K	6-1	196	23	3	Clemson
18	Terry Obee	WR	5-10	188	25	1	Oregon
19	Larry Wynn	WR	6-1	181	21	R	Northwestern Illinois
20	Mark Camer	S	6-1	192	25	4	USC
21	Donnell Woolford	CB	5-9	185	27	5	Clemson
22	Dewell Brewer	HB	5-8	203	23	R	Oklahoma
23	Shaun Gayle	S	5-11	202	31	10	Ohio State
24	Richard Fain	CB	5-10	180	25	3	Florida
25	Keshon Johnson	CB	5-10	177	23	R	Arizona
26	John Mangum	S	5-10	178	26	4	Alabama
27	Matt Goodwin	CB	6-1	223	23	R	Iowa State
29	Tracy Saul	S	5-10	179	22	R	Texas Tech
30	Carlos Fleeks	HB	6-0	200	22	R	Hampton
31	Mark Green	RB	5-11	190	26	5	Notre Dame
32	Lemuel Stinson	CB	5-9	180	27	6	Texas Tech
33	Darnel Lewis	RB	5-10	225	24	3	Texas A & M
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	215	29	8	Florida
36	Markus Paul	S	6-2	200	27	5	Syracuse
37	M. Douglass	CB	5-11	202	29	7	Kentucky
38	Greg Zomalt	FB	6-2	210	22	R	California
39	Jeremy Lincoln	CB	5-10	184	24	2	Tennessee
43	Kenny Wilhite	CB	5-8	189	23	R	Nebraska
44	Bob Christian	RB	5-10	225	24	1	Northwestern
45	Craig Heyward	FB	5-11	260	26	6	Pittsburgh
46	John Iliow	FB	5-11	226	23	R	Colorado State
47	Tony Blaylock	CB	5-10	185	28	6	Winston-Sal. St.
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	225	30	9	Michigan State
52	Jim Schwartz	LB	6-2	232	23	1	Purdue
53	Dante Jones	LB	6-1	238	28	6	Oklahoma
54	Ron Cox	LB	6-2	235	25	4	Fresno State
55	John Roper	LB	6-1	235	27	5	Texas A & M
57	Tom Thayer	G	6-4	284	32	9	Notre Dame
58	J. Leeuwenburg	C	6-2	290	24	1	Colorado
59	Joe Cain	LB	6-1	233	28	5	Oregon Tech
60	Stan Thomas	T	6-5	295	24	3	Texas
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	282	32	11	Iowa
63d	Dave Hoffmann	MLB	6-2	229	23	R	Washington
63o	Todd Burger	G	6-3	266	23	R	Penn State
64o	Mirko Jurkovic	G	6-3	290	23	2	Notre Dame
65	Myron Baker	LB	6-1	221	22	R	Louisiana Tech
67	Jerry Fontenot	G/C	6-3	287	26	5	Texas A & M
68d	Garland Hawkins	DE	6-3	232	23	R	Syracuse
68o	Mike DeHoog	T	6-4	296	22	R	Utah
69	Vernice Smith	G	6-3	298	27	5	Florida A & M
70	Troy Auzenne	T	6-7	290	24	2	California
71	James Williams	T	6-7	335	25	3	Chapman St.
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	335	30	9	Clemson
73	J. Wojciechowski	G	6-4	280	30	7	Michigan State
74d	Albert Fontenot	DE	6-4	260	22	R	Baylor
74o	Tony Nichols	T	6-4	290	22	R	San Diego State
75	Todd Perry	G	6-5	291	22	R	Kentucky
76	_____	DT	6-2	268	35	14	Texas
78	Keith Van Home	T	6-6	290	35	13	USC
79	Louis Age	T	6-7	350	23	2	SW Louisiana
80	Curtis Conway	WR/KR	6-0	185	22	R	JSC
81	Anthony Morgan	WR	6-1	195	25	3	Tennessee
82	Wendell Davis	WR	5-11	188	27	6	LSU
83	Enc Wright	WR	6-0	203	24	2	Steph E. Austin
84	Chris Gedney	TE	6-5	254	23	R	Syracuse
85	Keith Jennings	TE	6-4	260	27	4	Clemson
86	Kelly Blackwell	TE	6-1	255	24	2	TCL
87	Tom Waddle	WR	6-0	185	26	4	Boston College
89	Ryan Wetnight	TE	6-2	225	22	R	Stanford
90	Alonzo Spellman	DE	6-4	282	21	2	Ohio State
91	Tim Pauk	LB	6-1	230	25	1	Florida
92	Rico Mack	LB	6-4	226	22	R	Appalachian St.
93	Trace Armstrong	DE	6-4	265	27	5	Florida
94	Frank Kmet	DL	6-3	289	23	1	Purdue
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	265	32	11	Tennessee St.
96	Ragge Cooper	LB	6-2	215	25	2	Nebraska
97	Chris Zorich	DT	6-1	284	24	3	Notre Dame
98	Carl Simpson	DT	6-2	278	23	R	Florida State
99	Tim Ryan	DT	6-4	265	25	4	JSC

*Age as of Opening Day, 1993

It wasn't a total loss

It's obviously hard to tell anything in your first preseason game, but it was clear that Philadelphia controlled the first half of Sunday night's game.

Dave Wannstedt's overall philosophy is ball control. They want to run the football and throw to everybody. The Eagles didn't really allow that to happen early in the game. It doesn't seem like the Bears' running game is quite there yet.

All of a sudden, the Bears started to tune it up. They strung together a nice drive, but Craig Heyward dropped a sure touchdown. The Bears did move up the field real nice. Jim Harbaugh hit a back and a tight end to move in close.

Defensively, Dante Jones had a couple of nice sticks. He came out with fire in his eyes. He's got to come out that determined if he's going to fill that huge gap in the defense.

We all have to remember that it will take some time before the players feel comfortable with the new system. I think that was evident watching the receivers running some routes. They were evidently thinking more than reacting. Anthony Morgan, for example, didn't come back to the ball a couple of times and it almost resulted in an interception.

On the other hand, Terry Obee did come back for a ball. He adjusted real nice. It's obvious he's been around with a few different teams. I was impressed with Obee and I was also impressed with backup full-back Bob Christian. He's a force in there and could really help this football team, both spelling Heyward and on special teams.

Defensively, Jeremy Lincoln came up and really played the run well. He's a track guy and everyone knows he's real fast. The one question with him is his ability to stop the run. And if Sunday night was any indication, Lincoln could end up starting on this football team.

My initial impression of Curtis Conway was very good. He made some tough catches and wasn't afraid to fight for the ball. He fumbled away his first catch, but then redeemed himself by making some great plays. It was great to see how the Eagles were forced to respect his speed. Conway drew two pass interference penalties and could have scored three touchdowns but he was underthrown all evening.

Conway's debut

In his first professional football game, Bears first round draft pick Curtis Conway caught two passes for 22 yards. He made receptions of 14 and eight yards.

Conway also returned four kickoffs for 79 yards and one punt for five yards. He also fumbled away one of his pass receptions.

DOUG BUFFONE



The defense was clearly more aggressive than last season. Chris Zorich had a

solid game, registering a sack and pressure the Eagles quarterback into throwing an interception to Maurice Douglass.

One thing that not many people are talking about is the kicking game. I think the Bears are real solid with Kevin Butler and Chris Gardocki. Gardocki's punting was excellent and Butler was Mr. Consistent again.

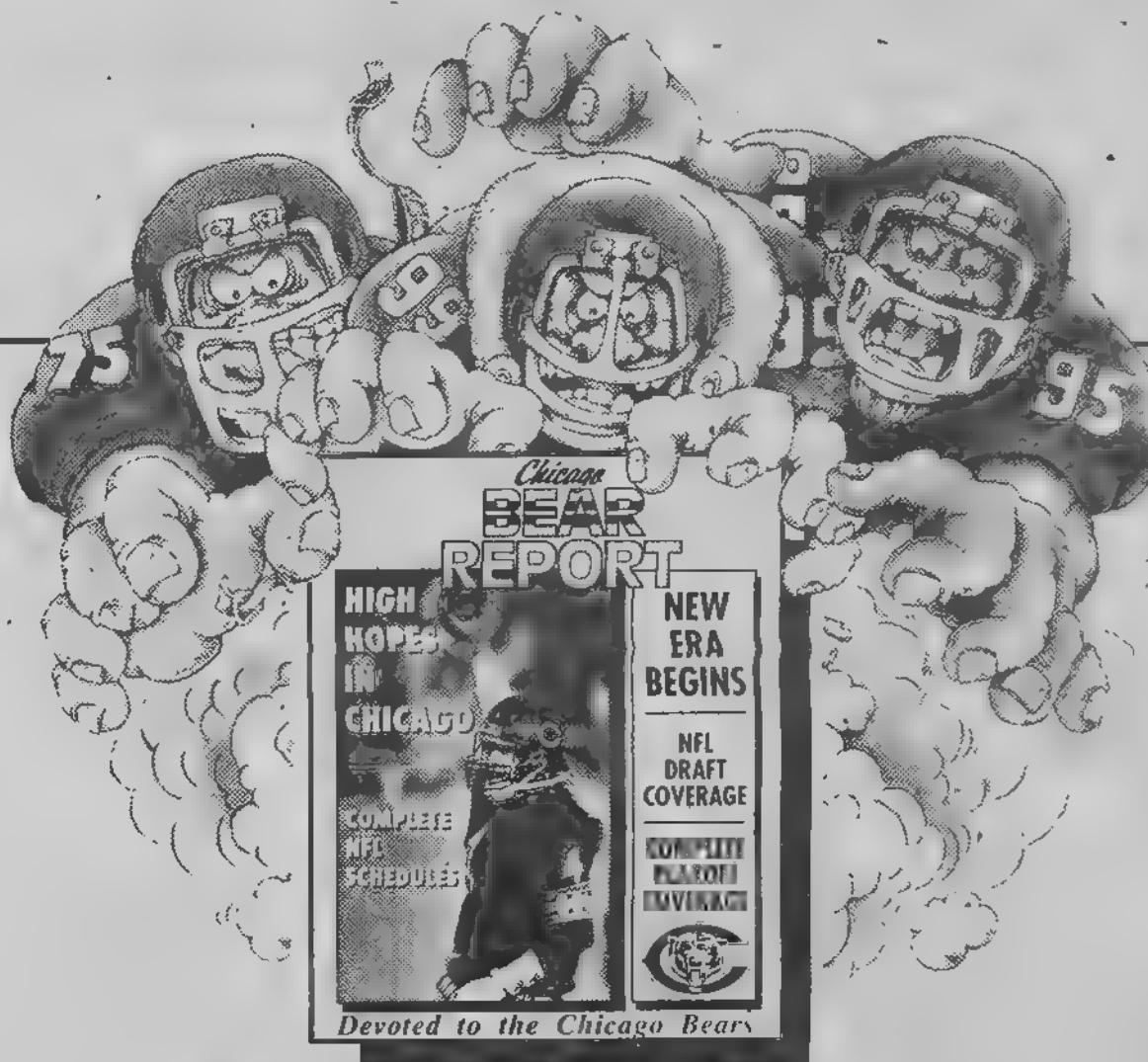
Win or lose, you can't tell much from the first preseason game. The thing you want to look at is the progress of the team in general and the play of certain individuals, particularly the younger players.

As I've mentioned, several young guys

had impressive nights. The Bears must build on this game and hope everything comes together by the third preseason game. That's when you really start to implement specific game plans and get ready for the regular season.

Former Bears star linebacker Doug Buffone hosts the Doug Buffone Sports Magazine every Sunday morning on SportsChannel Chicago.

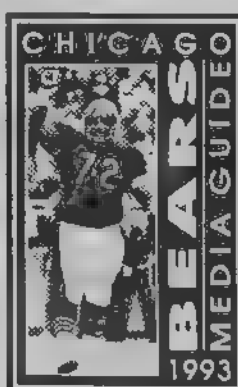
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Baschnagel still on paper trail

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

As a wide receiver and return specialist for the Chicago Bears from 1976-85, Brian Baschnagel's successes on the football field were measured on paper. Now that he's retired, they're measured in paper.

Baschnagel is presently a Manager of Marketing for North American Paper, a diverse distributor of paper products based in the Chicago suburb of Bellwood. The company distributes everything from industrial papers to packaging. Baschnagel's managerial responsibilities also include

selling.

"There are a lot of similarities between football and what I do now," Baschnagel said. "It's hard work, and there's discipline and preparation involved. And you've also got to pick yourself up after a setback."

"You face the same emotions you experienced as an athlete. I think my football career helped me deal with those emotions. Football, like business, is such a roller coaster ride in itself. There are a lot of ups and downs. You've got to really appreciate the good times and keep them in perspective. You must realize that the

next day could be a down time."

Baschnagel lives in Chicago's north suburbs with his wife Mindy and their children Mallory, 8, Allie, 7, and Luke, 5.

Baschnagel was a solid possession receiver during his career with the Bears. He also returned kickoffs and punts. He led the Bears in kickoff returns in 1976 (26.0 yard average), 1977 (24.2) and 1978 (22.8). He was never a star but over-achieved enough to squeeze out a nine-year career in the National Football League.

"I always looked at myself as a team-oriented type of individual," he said. "I think the different roles I played during my career with the Bears reflected that."

"I played 20 years or so of football, but I've never been one to look back."

Baschnagel was an integral part of the 1977 and '79 Bears playoff teams. He'll probably always be remembered, perhaps unfairly, for drawing an illegal motion penalty that wiped out an 84-yard touchdown run by Walter Payton in a 27-17 1979 playoff loss to the Philadelphia Eagles. At the time the score would have extended the Bears' lead, but they wound up blowing a 17-7 advantage.

Baschnagel's career continued through 1984, a year the Bears won their first NFC Central Division crown and eventually upset the Washington Redskins 23-19 at RFK Stadium. He spent the entire 1985 Super Bowl season on Injured Reserve.

"The things I remember most are the team's successes," Baschnagel said. "The Super Bowl was obviously the most exciting time. But the most memorable games were the ones we won that we weren't supposed to win. Like that playoff game in Washington. No one expected us to win that one, but we did."

"Individually, there are a lot of memories. But I was always very critical of myself as I played. I always tried to prove myself."

The end of Baschnagel's career came without much fanfare. He was released prior to the 1986 season. Six months later he was hired by North American Paper. He could have attempted to latch on with another team, but his skills had eroded to the point where he knew it was time to move on.

"I felt it was time for me to get out," Baschnagel said.

Almost a decade since he has stepped on a football field, Baschnagel doesn't cling to his days as a Chicago Bear. He has great memories, but he doesn't live in the past.

"I can't really say I miss the game tremendously," he said. "I enjoy waking up on Monday mornings without all the aches and pains. I guess you could say I miss the camaraderie, but there's camaraderie in what I do now. There's good fellowship in my company. Our business is very emotional and competitive."

"I played 20 years or so of football, but I've never been one to look back. I always enjoy what I'm doing and look forward to the future."

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CENTRAL ISSUES

By John Delcos

Lions start to play hardball



Detroit Lions

Lions GM Chuck Schmidt and assistant Michael Huyghue are starting to play hardball with second-round DB Ryan McNeil from Miami (Fla.). In the past, Detroit's front office yielded to the demands of its draft choices, but this time, the Lions left for Europe without McNeil, and when they return this week the price will go down — daily.

"By the time we return, his value to us diminishes," said Huyghue. "The money we offered won't be the same."

The Lions will slash their offer from \$500 to \$1000 daily. Normally, that wouldn't seem like much, but this season there's the variable of the salary cap.

The Lions have \$363,000 remaining from their rookie salary cap allowance — which will be distributed among the other draft picks who make the final 53-man roster.

The Lions, heavy favorites to return to the playoffs, face critical needs in the secondary having lost Melvin Jenkins and Sheldon White through free agency.

"I'm concerned," admitted coach Wayne Fontes in a rare display of coach-

ing openness. "We're dropping into rookies and guys who have never played before."

Of course, that description fits McNeil. If McNeil stays out — or even if he comes in later — the Lions are now considering loose cannon, but hard-hitting Tim McKyer, late of the 49ers, Dolphins and Falcons.

LIONS NOTEBOOK: OL Shawn Bouwens and DE Marc Spindler signed just before the team departed for London. ... DL Dan Owens and Lawrence Pete remain unsigned. ... WR Reggie Barnett and FB James Jones returned to practice. ... WR Herman Moore remains sidelined with a pulled hamstring. ... OT Lomas Brown and the Lions remain far apart on a new contract. Brown wants either a one-year (to test the free-agent waters) or a three-year (security) contract; the Lions are offering two.



Green Bay Packers

Reggie White got most of the ink — and definitely a majority of the dollars — but Green Bay's most important free-agent signing just might be G Harry Galbreath. If the Packers are to reach legitimate

contender status, they need to bolster their offensive line, and that's where Galbreath — who protected Dan Marino for five years in Miami — comes in. If he plays to his potential, he will have been worth the \$4.56 million the Packers will pay over three years.

Offensive line coach Tom Lovat is impressed: "He has been good, very good. Quick, just like we thought. Never misses a snap, hasn't missed a practice."

Galbreath is cognizant of the expectations, which is why he wasn't pleased with his Green Bay debut against the Los Angeles Raiders. He played for nearly three quarters and was flagged twice for holding.

"It's not the note I want to start on up here, but I've got to learn everything I'm supposed to be doing," said Galbreath. "Things like that might happen. I've just got to live with it, as long as this isn't happening all the time."

PACKERS NOTEBOOK: Coach Mike Holmgren on player mistakes: "It's ultimately up to the player. If a player makes too many mistakes, and (the coaches) have made it clear to him and (the coaches) have done everything we can, he can't play here." ... OT Ken Ruettgers, G Ron Hallstrom, LB Tony Bennett and DL Matt Brock are unsigned.



Minnesota Vikings

One of the rites of summer is hanging on.

Veterans hang on for one more year; younger players hang on for one more chance.

Pencil in RB Keith Henderson as the latter.

Once the San Francisco 49ers' third-round pick in 1991, Henderson has carried

the ball only 14 times in the past two years because of serious knee problems.

With RB Terry Allen probably out for the season with an injured knee, this is Henderson's shot, said coach Dennis Green.

"Right now, Keith looks like the guy who is going to get some more time," said Green, who said the Vikings could rotate up to four backs this season.

"(Keith) has the potential for a big season."

VIKINGS NOTEBOOK: QB Jim McMahon has now played in four games in Europe and can see the international appeal of football: "There may be more interest now. The World League has come over. They have their own leagues over here. It seems like it's getting bigger."



Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Will it ever happen for Charles McRae?

At 6-7 and 300 pounds, the former 1991 first-round pick was supposed to be an anchor on the Bucs' offensive line. He was supposed to be another Anthony Munoz — maybe that's why the Bucs signed the former Bengal and future Hall of Famer, to teach McRae — but has become the next Tony Mandarich.

"I don't want anybody to say, 'He wasn't worth a first-round pick.' I don't want anybody to say I didn't go out there and give it my best effort," said McRae.

BUCS NOTEBOOK: Currently, McRae is listed behind Scott Dill and left tackle. Normally a right tackle, McRae was moved to the left side as Paul Gruber continues his holdout. Munoz is on the right side. ... "Nothing is happening," is Bucs VP Rich McKay's update on negotiations with Gruber. ... DE Eric Curry and S Marty Carter remain unsigned.

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VIEWPOINT

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Fans Across America

Please spread the word that the Central Pennsylvania Bears Fan Club, AKA BearzBoyz, is back in its favorite den. Our leader, Steve "Bear Down" Browne, has arranged for the new management of Paradise Alley, on the grounds of the renowned Harrisburg East Mall, to provide access to all Bears satellite games this coming season.

You won't find more rabid, hardcore Bears fans outside of a "Saturday Night Live" rerun.

In seasons past, fellow Bears fans have driven up from D.C. and Baltimore, west from Philly, and from clear over on the West Shore to hoot, holler, and be generally obnoxious Bears fans, in a refined and dignified manner.

So if you want to spend Sunday afternoons waiting for the network to flash the scores across the bottom of the screen alone, that is okay, my friend. But if you want to watch the Bears with true fans, then show up and feel at home.

Steve "Spike" Bardowski
Mechanicsburg, Penn.

More fans...

Wow! Have I found a great club for Bears fans. This one is located in the Thousand Oaks/Newbury Park area in Ventura County. The club is called "Azar's Red Robin". During the football season they present all Bears games on satellite TV and Bears fans are plentiful.

Dorene Kirstine
Newbury Park, Calif.

Editor's note: The letters about where to watch Bears games have been pouring in from throughout the country. We will run a complete list of those establishments in next week's issue. Thanks to everyone who has dropped us a line!

Shane's gang

I'm still amazed! Do all of my fellow Bears fans up north realize that we acquired the all-time leading passer from the Southeastern Conference—Shane Matthews—for practically nothing!

Yeah, I know he hasn't played a down yet, but oh he will. I've seen him operate like a surgeon and he's a winner. Coach Wannstedt will play the best, not who's been around the longest, so I really believe we'll see Shane before the season's too old.

Personally, I still cannot imagine why Jim Harbaugh is still the quarterback.

Ben Adams
Lexington, Ky.

Why no Richie?

I'm still in the dark as to why Richie Petitbon was not picked to replace Mike Ditka. I never saw the results of his meeting with Michael McCaskey. Who turned who down? Was it Petitbon turning down McCaskey or the other way around?

Also, I hope I'm wrong but I pick the Bears to win no more than six games this season. My reason is because a complete new coaching staff and many new faces will take at least two or three years to gel together as a strong unit.

Being a Bears fan for over 60 years, I wish them well although the word is that the hated Packers have wheeled and dealt for a group of top-notch players. Will the Packers win the NFC Central Division? I hope that doesn't happen!

William Felicelli
Kenosha, Wis.

Michael McCaskey chose Dave Wannstedt as head coach after interviewing several qualified candidates. So I guess you could say it was ultimately McCaskey's decision.

Quarterback derby

Help! Only seven of the Bears games this season will be broadcast in my area. I'm wondering if any fan with access to a clear signal from a Chicago Bears radio station would be willing to help me out.

If anyone can help, I would be really grateful. Please write me a brief note if you can help out.

Finally, can you give us an update on two former Bears quarterbacks: Vince Evans and Tomczak? I hear that Tomczak is now with the Steelers. Will he push Neil O'Donnell for the starting job? What's up with Evans?

It might be interesting for fans to know some of the comparisons of last year's stats between Harbaugh and Tomczak. Tomczak actually had a higher rating, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. His was 80.1 versus Harbaugh's 76.2. Their percentages of touchdowns to interceptions and completion percentage were virtually the same.

Curiously, Vince Evans scored a 78.5 rating, also slightly better than Harbaugh. Jim McMahon did the worst of all (60.1). Even Peter Tom Willis' rating of 61.7 was better than that!

Of course, both Harbaugh and

McMahon have shown real on-field leadership. And I think Harbaugh will continue to develop into a top quarterback. But last year's numbers do suggest that the rap against Tomczak was unduly harsh. Given the right circumstances, he could become a good starter for any number of teams. Why Cleveland replaced him with Vinny Testaverde is beyond me. The former Bucs' rating was 74.2—lower than Tomczak's—and his on-field command is certainly questionable. Any speculation on why the Browns thought more highly of Vinny?

Christopher Cokinos
2328 Bailey Drive
Manhattan, Kansas

It's doubtful Mike Tomczak will push Neil O'Donnell for the Steelers' starting job. In fact, it'll be a battle just making the team. Tomczak will compete against Rick Strom and Alex Van Pelt for a roster spot.

As for Vince, he's listed second on the Raiders' depth chart behind starter Jeff Hostetler. Evans led the Raiders to a 19-3 win over the Packers last weekend by completing 7 of 11 passes for 85 yards and two touchdowns.

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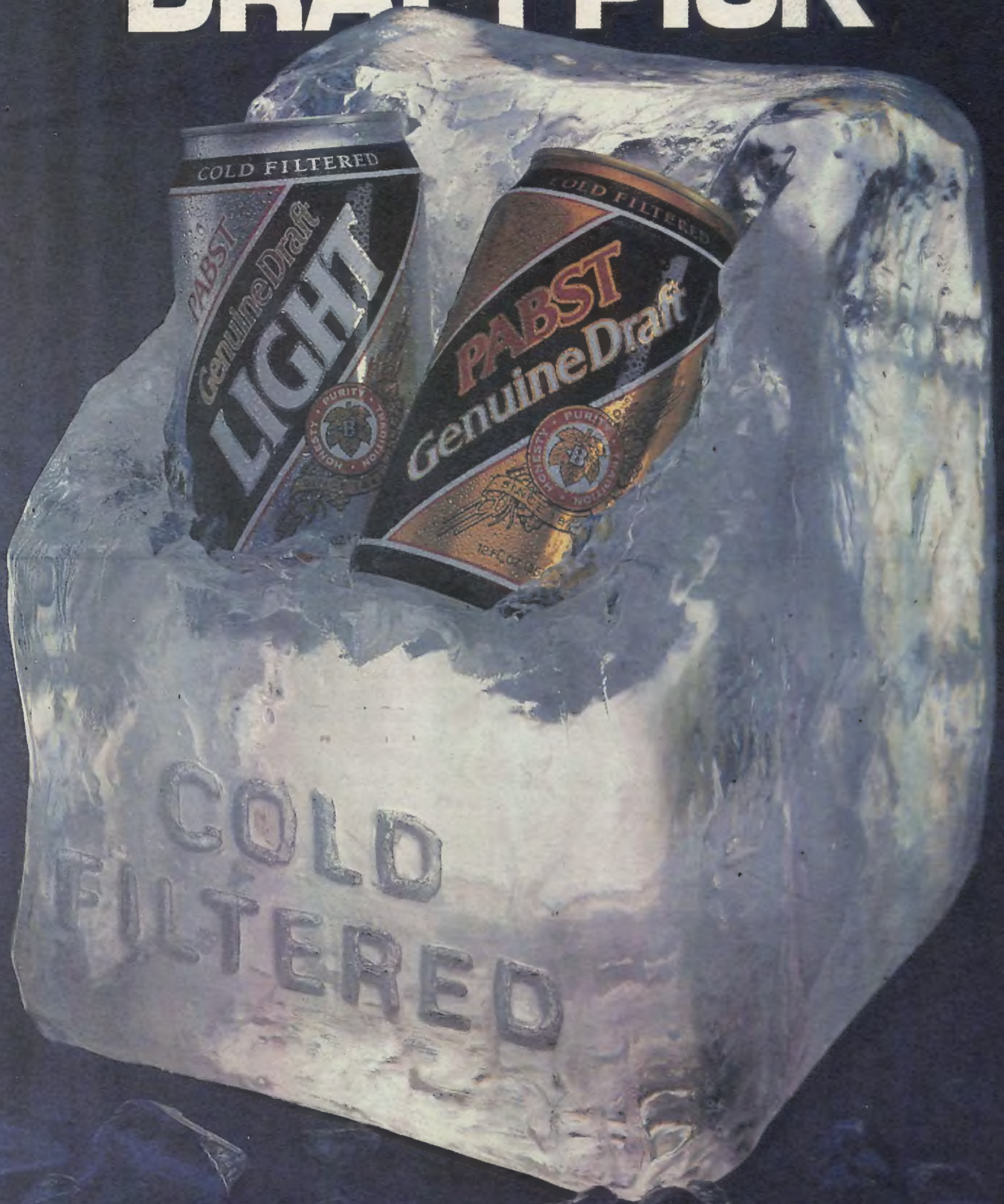
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